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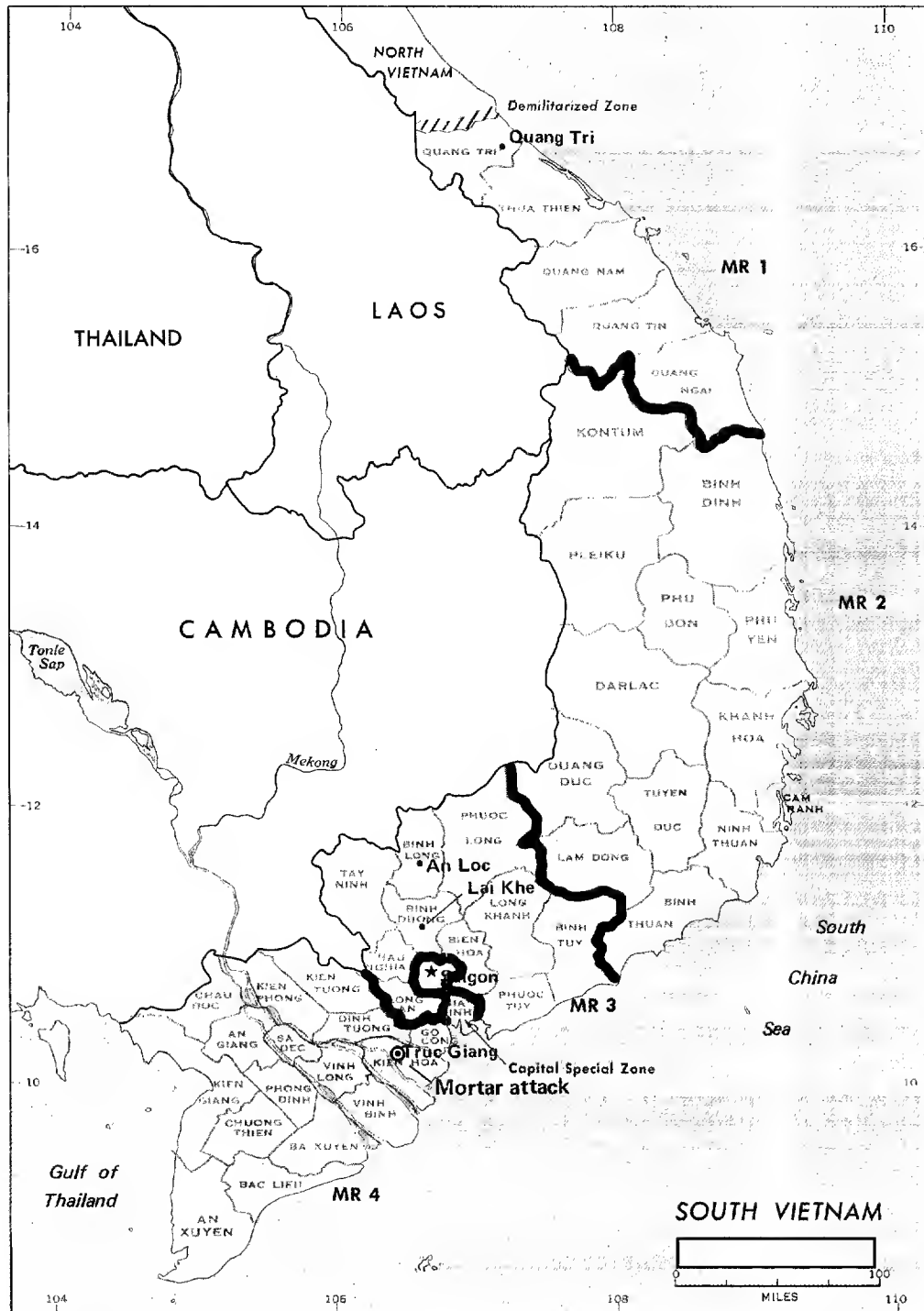
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SOUTH VIETNAM: The Communists have increased their pressure against government positions in several areas of the country, but South Vietnamese forces appear to have blunted most of the enemy's effort so far.

Some of the sharpest action occurred in the southern provinces where, over the weekend, enemy forces raided two major supply depots near Saigon, shelled government positions in Tay Ninh, Hau Nghia, and Long An provinces, and directed mortar fire into Truc Giang, the provincial capital of Kien Hoa in the northern delta. The heaviest ground combat was reported near Lai Khe, the government's staging base for An Loc, with substantial government losses resulting from three days of fighting with elements of the North Vietnamese 7th Division.

Farther south in the delta, heavy air strikes and action by government forces reportedly have inflicted substantial losses on Communist forces in Dinh Tuong Province. The discovery of several large enemy caches and the identification of elements from a second Communist artillery regiment in the northern delta, however, indicate that men and supplies continue to move into the region. [REDACTED] elements of the enemy's Phuoc Long Front may be preparing to move into the western delta region from nearby Cambodia.

On the northern battlefield, heavy Communist artillery fire continues to hamper severely government clearing operations in Quang Tri City. South Vietnamese Marines fought several sharp engagements in the still-uncleared southern section of the city and in one instance were hit by a 500-round artillery barrage that included tear gas canisters. Since 28 July, the South Vietnamese Marines have suffered losses of 122 killed and 1,080 wounded. Communist artillery shellings caused 85 percent of the casualties. [REDACTED]

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NOTE

ARGENTINA: The weekend shooting of a federal police inspector appears to be another example of the terrorists' using assassinations of senior security officials to destroy public faith in the Lanusse government's ability to maintain order. A similar terrorist operation was the killing of the commander of the Second Army, General Sanchez, in April. This latest assassination may have been timed to add to the administration's current difficulties in trying to work out a political arrangement with the Peronist movement for the national elections scheduled for March 1973.

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